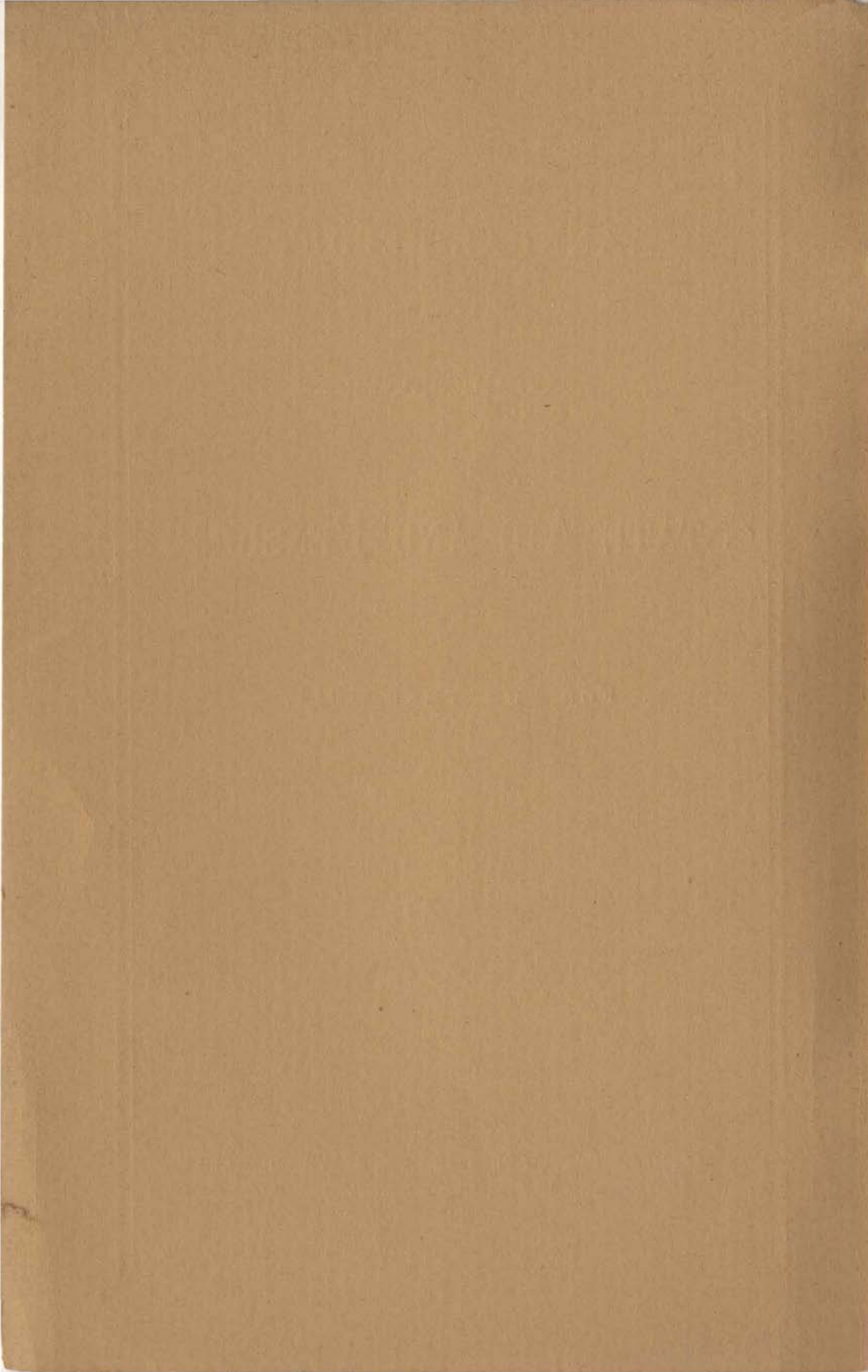


ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONER
OF
STATE AID AND PENSIONS.

FOR THE YEAR 1911.



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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF STATE AID AND PENSIONS,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, JAN. 1, 1912.

To the Honorable Senate and the House of Representatives.

I have the honor to submit herewith to your honorable bodies the annual report of the department of State Aid and Pensions, the part relating to State and military aid and burials being for the year 1910, and that portion relating to pensions covering the year 1911.

Very respectfully,

F. A. BICKNELL,
Commissioner of State Aid and Pensions.

The University of Minnesota

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
1911

W. A. BICKNELL

President of the University

REPORT.

STATE AND MILITARY AID AND BURIAL EXPENSES.

Disbursements of State and military aid and for the burial of indigent soldiers, sailors and marines, their wives, widows and dependent fathers and mothers, were made under chapter 468, Acts of 1909, by 350 cities and towns in the Commonwealth during the year 1910, due and payable Nov. 10, 1911, as follows:—

State aid to soldiers and dependents, civil war,	\$755,641 41
State aid to soldiers and dependents, war with Spain,	5,504 50
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, civil war,	27,702 75
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, war with Spain,	6,927 64
Burial expenses of indigent soldiers and dependents,	34,046 34
	<hr/>
	\$829,822 64

The figures above given show a decrease of \$29,984.61 from 1909.

As stated in our report of last year, the expenditures on account of State and military aid have evidently reached the maximum, owing to the passing away of many of the old soldiers, and steady decrease annually may now be looked for.

In addition to this, many of the surviving soldiers have had their age pensions increased, which made them self-supporting, and in some cases they gave up the aid of their own accord, while in other cases it was suspended by the commissioner.

The total number of recipients of State aid, civil war, for 1910, was 14,662, classified as follows:—

Pensioners (soldiers),	6,542	Decrease,	357
Wives,	622	Decrease,	51
Widows,	7,432	Decrease,	123
Widowed mothers,	60	Decrease,	12
Army nurses,	6		
	<hr/>		
Total,	14,662		

Net decrease of recipients during 1910, 543.

Average cost to State per person aided, \$51.53+.

The total number of recipients for 1910, war with Spain, was 132, classified as follows:—

Pensioners (soldiers),	39	Decrease,	8
Wives,	1	Decrease,	1
Widows,	34		
Dependent mothers,	37	Decrease,	4
Dependent fathers,	4		
Children,	16	Decrease,	2
Army nurses,	1		
<hr/>			
Total,	132		

Total decrease during 1910, 14.

Average cost to State, \$41.70+.

The only change in the law is an amendment passed in April, 1910, which makes women who served as nurses during the Spanish war between Feb. 15, 1898, and April 12, 1899, eligible to be considered for State aid.

Military Aid.

Military aid to the amount of \$34,630.39 — a decrease of \$3,071.29 from 1910 — was disbursed to 386 soldiers and sailors of the civil war, and to 100 soldiers and sailors of the war with Spain, making the total number aided under this chapter during the year, 486, a total decrease of 52 from the previous year.

Applicants for military aid are required to furnish medical certificates showing to what extent they are disabled. In Boston and the immediate vicinity applicants are examined by the Surgeon-General without expense to themselves, and in this connection I desire to acknowledge the excellent services rendered by Surgeon-General Foster.

There has been no change in the office force since the last report. The agents have been remarkably faithful in their service, and have investigated more than 8,600 cases. These investigations consist of personal interviews with the recipients of aid as to their physical and financial condition, amount of income, etc. Many of the recipients are visited at their homes.

As these investigations necessitate the agents being away from their homes a great deal of the time, they are necessarily under expense not provided for in their traveling expenses. I would therefore respectfully renew my recommendation of last year that the salary of one agent be increased from \$1,300 to \$1,400, that of the special agent from \$900 to \$1,000 and that of the female agent from \$1,000 to \$1,100.

Burial Expenses of Indigent Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, Their Wives, Widows and Dependent Mothers, and Army Nurses under Chapter 468, Acts of 1909.

The law governing the payment of State aid also provides that in the cases of soldiers, sailors, marines, their wives, widows and dependent mothers, and army nurses who died without leaving means sufficient to defray their burial expenses, the sum of \$37 shall be allowed in each case toward the burial expense; and there were buried, during the year 1910, 921 persons at an expense of \$34,046.34. They are classified as follows:—

Civil war:—

Soldiers,	. . . . .	590	Decrease,	. . . . .	12
Widows,	. . . . .	244	Increase,	. . . . .	21
Wives,	. . . . .	33	Decrease,	. . . . .	11
Mothers,	10	Increase,	6
		—————			877

Spanish war:—

Soldiers,	43	Increase,	2
Mothers,	1	Decrease,	2
		—————			44

Total,	921
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An increase of 2 cases, and an increase in expenditure of \$77.34 over 1909.

Average cost to State per burial, \$36.96+.

Total Payments of State Aid since 1861.

The total payments by the Commonwealth for State and military aid and burial of indigent soldiers and sailors, including appropriations made by the General Court toward maintenance of the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts, from 1861 to the close of 1910, were \$35,779,362 75

State and military aid and burial of soldiers and sailors on account of 1910, paid in 1911,	829,822, 64
Special laws, 1911,	804 00
Soldiers' Home, 1911,	96,000 00
	<hr/>
Total to Dec. 1, 1911,	\$36,705,989 39

An itemized account of the amounts paid to the various cities and towns will be found in the Auditor's annual report.

PENSION DEPARTMENT.

Since our last report the laws governing the payment of pensions have not been changed so as to affect the duties of this office. Between 7,000 and 8,000 vouchers have been executed without expense to the pensioners. On account of pending legislation much correspondence has been required in answering the numerous inquiries. Many claimants forward their claims through other attorneys, but frequently have papers completed in this office — affidavits, etc. These have been cheerfully attended to.

Massachusetts is truly indebted to Hon. J. L. Davenport, United States Commissioner of Pensions, for his uniform courtesy and advice, and I deem it advisable to quote from his report for the year ending June 30, 1911, as being of interest to your honorable bodies and to all concerned.

He states that the number of the survivors of the civil war borne upon the pension rolls June 30, 1911, was 529,884, and that 35,243 names have been dropped from the rolls during the year on account of death. He further states that it is believed that only about 25 per cent. of those who rendered service in the civil war are now living, and the death rate of the above-mentioned survivors is about 6 per cent. per annum. The average age of survivors of the civil war is about seventy years.

Appended is a brief summary for the year ending Dec. 31, 1911:—

Act Feb. 6, 1907,	672
Soldiers (original),	30
Soldiers (increase),	32
Widows,	362
Reimbursement,	86
Wives,	8
New certificates,	22
Mothers,	2
Fathers,	3
Guardians,	9
Wife to draw without guardianship,	1
Transfers,	13
Payment unendorsed checks,	7
Restoration to rolls,	3
Twenty years' service,	1
Certificates in lieu of discharge,	1
Arrears pay and bounty,	4
Old claims called up,	14
Total,	1,270
Number of claims allowed,	1,007
Number of claims rejected,	91

Respectfully submitted,

F. A. BICKNELL,

Commissioner of State Aid and Pensions.

